Supporting Staff
Digging into Implementation

Troubleshooting: Some Solutions

How can I find time to use MiM?
Help staff find ways to use MiM to solve problems. For example, use Line Up or Catch the Beat to keep children occupied when they are waiting in line.

How can I keep MiM fresh and relevant?
Remind staff to use or invent variations and to try different activities.

How can I inform parents about MiM?
Try one of three approaches:
(1) Post information about MiM on a bulletin board, e.g., Fast Facts sheet
(2) Post kids’ work and encourage parents to ask their kids about it. For example, post children’s estimates and data from Growing Plants, Endurance, or How Many in a Minute.
(3) Include parents in MiM activities at pick-up time. Quick Questions or How Many in the Jar? work well for this purpose.

Start-Up
____Become familiar with MiM activities so you can help staff choose and implement them.
____Read the “Math Spotlight,” and “Everyday Connections” sections for background.
____Create a system for storing and maintaining MiM materials.
____Plan an introduction or training for staff.

Orientation
____Introduce MiM and explain how it fits with program goals.
____Provide a chance for staff to participate in and or observe MiM activities.
____State expectations for MiM use, for example, every day during circle time or at least 45 minutes a week.
____Show staff how to access MiM resources on-line and on site (in binders or files).
____Promote MiM with enthusiasm.

Follow-Up
____Check in on MiM use.
____Observe staff and provide feedback.
____Periodically model MiM or offer opportunities for staff to observe one another using MiM.
____Lead or encourage staff to lead MiM activities as icebreakers at the start of meetings; give staff time to share ideas about MiM.
____Check in with staff once a month using the Self-Assessment form.

If you or someone else is acting as your agency’s point person for Mixing in Math, you can use this form to check that you have taken steps to support implementation all along the way.